Iowa's Community College-Based Basic Literacy Skills Credentials

Basic Skills Certification

The Basic Skills Certification Program awards certificates for successful attainment of basic literacy skills competencies below the General Educational Development (GED) level. The program issues a total of 15 basic literacy certificates in the areas of reading, mathematics, writing, and listening at four certification levels based on the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS).

Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma

The Iowa High School Equivalency Diploma Program provides individuals without a traditional high school diploma with a second opportunity. The diploma is awarded to adults who successfully complete the GED test battery.

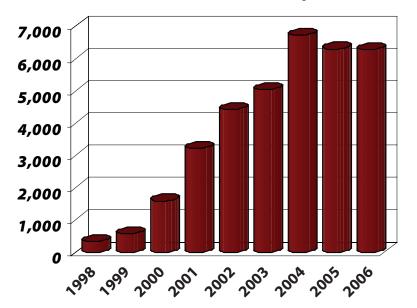
Adult High School Diploma

The Adult High School Diploma is an alternative to the GED-based diploma. The credential is awarded by community colleges to adults who successfully complete a prescribed program of instruction at the college.

Traditional High School Diploma

In the context of the Basic Literacy Skills Credential Program, traditional high school diplomas are awarded to in-school youth who take courses at a community college and earn high school credit. The diploma is issued by the local school district as a result of a cooperative agreement between the local school district and the community college.

Basic Skill Certificates Issued, 1998-2006



lowa's Community Colleges

Northeast Iowa Community College North Iowa Area Community College Iowa Lakes Community College Northwest Iowa Community College Iowa Central Community College Iowa Valley Community College District Hawkeye Community College District Kirkwood Community College
Des Moines Area Community College
Western Iowa Tech Community College
Iowa Western Community College
Southwestern Community College
Indian Hills Community College
Southeastern Community College

For additional information, visit:
http://www.iowa.gov/educate/content/blogcategory/182/940/
or contact Helene Grossman, Adult Literacy Education Consultant,
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Iowa Basic Skills Certification Program

Facts at a Glance



Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation

2007-2008

Iowa's Basic Skills Certification Program

The lowa Basic Skills Certification Program provides individuals without a traditional secondary school credential the opportunity to earn a basic skill certification or diploma. The comprehensive program is administered by Iowa's community colleges and consists of four components -- basic literacy skills certifications, Iowa High School Equivalency Diplomas, community college-based adult high school diplomas, and traditional high school diplomas.

The program is designed to document basic literacy skills competency attainment in a wide variety of learning environments. The program has been successfully implemented in the following agencies, institutions, and organizations:

- community colleges
- adult correctional facilities
- business and industry
- secondary educational institutions
- sheltered workshops and work activity centers
- adult learning centers
- community based organizations
- workforce development centers

lowa is the only state to use the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment Systems (CASAS) for basic skill certification. The systems help determine and certify mastery of basic employability skills necessary for success in the workplace. Between program years 1998 and 2006, 34,484 basic skills certificates were issued.

